

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Andrew Szekely is an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the District of Maryland, where he is also the Training Director. In his practice, he represents indigent individuals charged with federal felonies in all stages of litigation, from investigation through trial and sentencing. Prior to joining the Office of the Federal Public Defender, he was an Assistant Public Defender in the Anne Arundel County, Maryland Office of the Public Defender and spent time in private practice where he practiced in state and federal courts throughout Maryland and in the District of Columbia

André de Gruy is the State Public Defender for Mississippi. He founded the Mississippi Office of Capital Defense Counsel in July 2001, and has continuously served as director of that program, now a division of the Office of State Public Defender. He previously worked as an intern, staff attorney and director of the Mississippi Capital Defense Resource Center Inc. and as an assistant public defender in Hinds County. He is a 1990 graduate of Mississippi College School of Law. He served on the Mississippi Corrections and Criminal Justice Task Force and now serves on the Oversight Task Force. He served on the Mississippi Public Defenders Association Board of Directors for over 15 years including as President and chair of both the Training and Public Policy Committees. He is a “Life” member of MPDA. He is also a member of the National Association for Public Defense, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the Mississippi Association for Justice. André has served on the Mississippi Public Defender Task Force and serves on Catholic Charities’ Faith In Action Team (FIAT). He is married to Judge Elizabeth de Gruy, they have five children and four grandchildren.

Omodare Jupiter has represented indigent clients for almost all his legal career. On April 1, 2019 he began his tenure as the Federal Public Defender for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi. Before his appointment to this position, he served in the same capacity for the District of the United States Virgin Islands from 2013 - 2019. He was an Assistant Federal Defender in Mississippi from 2004 – 2013, and did the same in Seattle, Washington from 2000 – 2004. He was a local public defender in New Orleans (1996 – 2000) and began his career at the Public Defender Service (PDS) in Washington, D.C (1990 – 1994). He graduated from Howard University School of Law in 1989, and from Loyola University in 1986. Omodare grew up in New Orleans and is the proud father of three sons: Khidari, Sabelo, and Bezaleel. He also serves as a member of the faculty of the National Criminal Defense College.

Michael Kane is a Deputy Director at the Crime and Justice Institute, a non-profit consulting and technical assistance group that works with local, county, state, and federal agencies to advance evidence-based practices. At CJI, he manages a diverse body of work to help criminal justice systems increase efficiency and effectiveness. As part of his portfolio, he manages work occurring in Mississippi for an Arnold Ventures funded project examining the causes of increasing revocations from community supervision. Michael’s other work spans the criminal justice system including managing a team providing technical assistance to eight jurisdictions implementing NIC’s Transition from Jail to Community Initiative and a project developing a training curriculum for frontline probation and parole officers intended to facilitate behavior change in the individuals they supervise. With more than 15 years of experience consulting, providing technical assistance, and conducting research, Mr. Kane has overseen projects for the Bureau of Justice Assistance, National

Institute of Corrections, National Institute of Justice, and SAMHSA, among others. Mr. Kane holds a B.A. in Sociology from Northeastern University and a master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago.

Greta Kemp Martin is the Litigation Director for Disability Rights Mississippi, the protection and advocacy agency for the state of Mississippi, tasked with legal representation and advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

Born, raised, and educated in Mississippi, Greta is a 2007 graduate of the University of Mississippi and a 2010 graduate of Mississippi College School of Law. She is an active member of the Mississippi Bar and has served on various bar committees. She is a 2015 graduate of the Mississippi Bar Leadership Forum.

Since law school, Greta has been an active member of the Mississippi Association for Justice, having served in various leadership roles for the association, including New Lawyer's Division Chair and Women's Caucus Chair. She is currently President-Elect and will be stepping in as MAJ President in June 2021. She is a past recipient of the Margaret P. Ellis Legacy of Leadership as well as MAJ's Woman of Achievement Award. Similarly, Greta is active with the American Association for Justice and previously served on the Board of Governors.

Greta is a former President of the Mississippi Women Lawyers' Association (2014-15). She also serves on the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission – a task force that focuses on bringing legal services to underserved communities in Mississippi. Greta sits on the Advisory Council for Planned Parenthood and is a 2019-2020 graduate of the Public Policy Institute through the Women's Foundation of Mississippi.

Greta lives in Jackson, Mississippi with her husband, Drew, and her three step-children – Turner, McNeil, and Harrison – and their dogs Arya & Biden.

United States District **Judge Carlton W. Reeves**, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, assumed office on December 30, 2010. Immediately prior to his nomination by President Barack Obama, Judge Reeves was engaged in the private practice of law with Pigott Reeves Johnson, P.A., a law firm he co-founded in 2001. The focus of his practice was state and federal litigation where he represented individuals, public institutions, and private businesses.

Judge Reeves's career began as law clerk to Justice Reuben V. Anderson of the Mississippi Supreme Court. He also served as staff attorney to the court, and then was an associate with the Phelps Dunbar law firm (1991-95) before serving as Assistant United States Attorney, Chief of the Civil Division for the Southern District of Mississippi (1995-2001).

A 1986 graduate of Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, *magna cum laude*, and the University of Virginia School of Law (1989), Judge Reeves is a former President of the Magnolia Bar Association and Magnolia Bar Foundation. Judge Reeves has been awarded the Magnolia Bar's highest honor, the R. Jess Brown Award, and received the Mississippi Bar's Curtis E. Coker Access to Justice Award and the Hind County Pro Bono Award. He was named Distinguished Jurist of the Year (2014-15) by the Mississippi Association of Justice and received the Mississippi State University Department of Political Science & Public Administration and the Pre-Law Society

Distinguished Jurist Award (2016). Judge Reeves received the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law in 2019.

Jonathan Rapping is a nationally renowned criminal justice innovator who is the founder and president of Gideon's Promise, a nonprofit, public defender organization whose mission is to transform the criminal justice system by building a movement of public defenders who provide equal justice for marginalized communities.

Since its inception in 2007, Gideon's Promise has grown from a single training program for sixteen attorneys in two public defender offices in Georgia and Louisiana to a national enterprise with over 1,000 participants in 40 offices across 27 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization's initial three-year program for new public defenders has expanded into the only comprehensive program model that supports public defenders at all levels of their career. The organization now has programming for new lawyers, supervisors, chief defenders, trainers, law students considering a career in public defense, and the clinical instructors who teach them.

In addition to Rapping's leadership of Gideon's Promise, he is Professor of Law and Director of the Criminal Justice Certificate Program at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard University Law School. He is a frequent contributor to national conversations on criminal justice reform and has been featured by numerous media outlets that include *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, *Huffpost Live*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Mother Jones*, *Essence* and NPR stations across the country. Rapping has been a speaker at TEDx Atlanta, a frequent presenter to public defender and criminal defense organizations nationally, and routinely lectures at law schools across the country. Notably, Rapping and his work with public defenders was the inspiration for the award-winning HBO documentary "Gideon's Army."

He has also written extensively on issues related to criminal justice reform and has been published in numerous scholarly and professional journals. His contributions have been published by the *National Association of Public Defense*, *Talk Poverty*, *The Nation*, *The Champion*, *Justice Watch*, *The Advocate*, and *Congressional Quarterly Research* to name a few. Additionally, Rapping maintains a blog called *Fulfilling the Promise: Insights to Forging a Path to Meaningful Justice Reform*.

Rapping is the recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Grant, the American College of Trial Lawyers Emil Gumpert Award, Harvard Law School Wasserstein Public Interest Fellowship, Cardozo Law School Inspire Award, and the George Soros Open Society Fellowship along with many other honors and recognitions. Rapping and Gideon's Promise have received the National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists Sentencing Project Award, Southern Center for Human Rights Gideon's Promise Award, and Emory University MLK Jr. Community Service Award.

He received a J.D. from George Washington University School of Law; a M.P.A from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University; and a B.A. from University of Chicago.

He is the author of *Gideon's Promise: A Public Defender Movement to Transform Criminal Justice*, a book that explores a cutting-edge vision for public defenders in the effort to transform the criminal justice system. The book will be released in 2020 by Beacon Press.

Rapping resides in Atlanta, Georgia with wife Ilham and children Aaliyah and Lucas.

Justin Cook is a Jackson-native and has been at the Office of State Public Defender since January of 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. Justin attended law school at the University of Mississippi. He currently serves as the president of the Mississippi Public Defenders Association.

Justin and his wife Ginger live in Jackson with their children, Eloise and Oliver, and their dog Norman.

Michael L. Perlin is Professor of Law Emeritus at New York Law School (NYLS), where he was director of NYLS's Online Mental Disability Law Program, and director of NYLS's International Mental Disability Law Reform Project in its Justice Action Center. He is co-founder of Mental Disability Law and Policy Associates, and is currently Adjunct Professor of Law, Emory University School of Law, and Instructor, Loyola University New Orleans, Department of Criminology and Justice. He has written 33 books and nearly 300 articles on all aspects of mental disability law, focusing primarily on issues related to criminal law and procedure. He has litigated at every court level from police court to the US Supreme Court and has done advocacy work on every continent. He is the honorary life president of the International Society for Therapeutic Jurisprudence and a member of that society's current Board of Trustees. He is also a member of the Lawrence Township (NJ) Community Concert Band, the Temple University Night Owls band, and the board of directors of the Washington Crossing (NJ) Audubon Society.

Will Snowden's legal career began as a public defender in New Orleans, LA, where he witnessed the discriminatory practices removing jurors from the jury panel and took his fight from the courtroom to the community and created The Juror Project--which is his passion project. Will presents at high schools, colleges, churches, and other community gatherings discussing the importance of jury service, the discriminatory practices of some prosecutors, and the factors at play removing diversity from the jury. Will completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota and earned his law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law. He currently works with the Vera Institute of Justice as the Director of the New Orleans office.

Ashley Perkins worked as an Investigator for the Forrest County Public Defender's office from 2009 through 2017. She next worked as an Investigator/ Mitigation Specialist for the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Northern District of Florida until 2019, when she returned to Mississippi to begin work as a Mitigation Specialist for the Office of State Public Defender in Jackson, MS. Ashley holds a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in Political Science and Paralegal Studies.

Judge Lisa Dodson of Gulfport received her B.S. from Mississippi University for Women in 1977 graduating magna cum laude and with honors. She received her J.D. from the University of Mississippi in 1981. She was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in 1981.

Judge Dodson began her law career in private practice with a law firm in Gulfport. She later became a partner in that firm. Her private practice was in general litigation in both state and federal courts. She handled matters in areas including products liability, medical malpractice, workers' compensation, and general personal injury. Judge Dodson in 1997 became an Assistant District Attorney. There, she handled predominately the prosecution of violent and gun related crimes. In November 2006, she was elected Circuit Court Judge in the Second Circuit Court District, being the first female elected to that position. She continues to serve in that position. She has previously served on the Board of Bar Commissioners and several Mississippi Bar committees. She is a Fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation.

Glenda McGraw Regnart serves as Counsel to the Firm for Cascadia Cross Border Law, LLC and Owner/Operator of Regnart Immigration. Ms. Regnart focuses her practice on providing expert advice and opinions concerning the immigration consequences of criminal convictions to criminal defense counsel. She has extensive experience with removal defense, immigration detention issues and regularly provides training and expert opinions on crimmigration related topics.

Ms. Regnart spent approximately fifteen years working in the federal government, most of which was with the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement serving in a variety of roles, including Chief Counsel for the New Orleans Field Office. Ms. Regnart was stationed at the Oakdale, Louisiana Federal Detention Complex and prosecuted removal cases involving criminal aliens, national security, and high-profile immigration removals.

Ms. Regnart is a native of, and resides in LeCompte, Louisiana, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Louisiana College, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and a *Juris Doctor* from Mississippi College School of Law. She is a member of the Mississippi and Alaska Bar Associations, the Federal Bar Association, and the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Tino Negron is an Outreach Specialist and Research Assistant Aide for the Health Justice Lab and Transitions Clinic at Yale Law School. Mr. Negron is also a Certified Life Coach and Recovery Coach for Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery and a Forensic Peer Support Specialist and Mentor for those who are justice-involved as well as those who are returning to our communities following a term of imprisonment, including those who are on the threshold of making a change prior to their release.

Mr. Negron fully understands the meaning of redemption. He was convicted of murder and armed robbery that occurred when he was 17 years old and sentenced to a total term of 60 years. He served 30 years. Mr. Negron personally understands the doubt, despair, and complex psychological and social histories that incarcerated, and formerly incarcerated populations confront. While incarcerated, Mr. Negron created and co-founded a program designed to reduce violence and recidivism. Skills of Socialization provides peer-to-peer support and space to discuss personal concerns and alternative responses and behaviors to stressors. The Connecticut Department of Corrections continues to support this program, which assists men, both as a group and individually, in developing social skills and appropriate responses inside as well as upon release and reintegration into society.

Gail Wright Lowery is the Public Defender for the Seventh Circuit Court District in Hinds County, Mississippi. Prior to her appointment as Public Defender, Gail has served in several positions throughout her nearly 40 years in the practice of law. Gail's legal career began at Central Mississippi Legal Services in Jackson, Mississippi. During her practice, Gail has served as a private practitioner, Special Assistant Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General as well as Deputy Director of the Office of General Services in the Department of Finance and Administration for the State of Mississippi. She has also held the position of Special Assistant to the City Attorney and was also appointed as the City Attorney for the City of Jackson, Mississippi. Gail served as a Municipal Court Judge in Jackson, Mississippi and as Special Master in the Chancery Court of Hinds County.

Gail attended Jackson Public Schools, graduating from Murrah High School. Majoring in Political Science with a concentration in Pre-Law, Gail was awarded the B.A. degree from Jackson State University and received her Juris Doctorate from Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, Illinois.

Gail Wright Lowery is a native of Jackson, Mississippi where she resides with her husband, Joe and son, Joe II. They are members of the Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

Matt Busby was born and raised in Biloxi, Mississippi. After serving in the USMC, he finally graduated from William Carey after stops at the University of Montevallo and Mississippi State. He attended law school much later in life and graduated from Western Michigan Law School. He began his career as an Assistant Public Defender in Harrison County and later served as an Assistant District Attorney in Harrison County. He worked in private practice in Biloxi as well as Houston, Texas focusing on criminal defense and immigration law. Matt was appointed to serve as Chief Public Defender for Pearl River County on March 1, 2020 and considers this position as his dream job. He is active in his community as a member of the NAACP of Pearl River County and Pearl River County Democratic Party.